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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/584,497	06/01/2000	Heinz Kettler	P19246	4681

7055 7590 01/02/2002

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RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

WINNER, TONY H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3618

DATE MAILED: 01/02/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SK

**Office Action Summary**Application No.  
**09/584,497**Applicant(s)  
**H. Kettler**Examiner  
**Tony Winner**Art Unit  
**3618****-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --****Period for Reply**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/18/01
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 and 34-58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 and 34-57 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 31, 32, and 58 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 15) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                              | 18) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 16) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)          | 19) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 17) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ | 20) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Acknowledgment*

1. Receipt of the amendment filed 10/18/01 has been acknowledged and entered. Claim 33 is canceled. Objection to claim 53 has been withdrawn. **35 U.S.C. § 112** rejection to claims 27-28, 31-35, 51-56 have also been withdrawn.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112*

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 31, 32, and 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 31, 32 and 58, the phrase “**rod like member**” renders the claims indefinite because the claims include elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by “rod like member”), thereby rendering the scope of the claims unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

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***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed 10/18/01 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection to claims 31, 32, and 58 are proper and the applicant must delete the word "like" from the claim recitation to overcome this rejection.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 31, 32, and 58 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Reasons for Allowance***

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 26, 28, 30, 34, 35, and 37-46 are allowed because the prior art neither shows nor teaches the latch element is connected to a slide, and the slide is being disposed within the support tube.

Claims 27, 29, and 36 are allowed because these claims been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-25 and 47-50 are allowed because the prior art neither shows nor teaches a latch element is projected from the fork tube and disposed with the support tube along with a linkage

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element also disposed with the support tube, wherein the linkage element is movable in a direction which is substantially parallel to an axis of the fork tube and comprises at least one stop surface for limiting a rotation of the fork tube.

Claims 51-56 are allowed because the prior art neither shows nor teaches the latch element engages only the lower bearing support and where the at least one stop of the lower bearing support cooperates with the at least one stop of the linkage element to limit the rotational movement of the fork tube to a second position where the latch element releasably engages a recess in the linkage element whereby the fork tube is prevented from rotating in any direction.

Claims 57-58 are allowed because the prior art neither shows nor teaches the slide is adapted to move the latch element from outside the support tube and in combination with other elements recited.

### ***Conclusion***

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Tony Winner whose telephone number is (703) 306-5957. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 am to 6:30 pm.

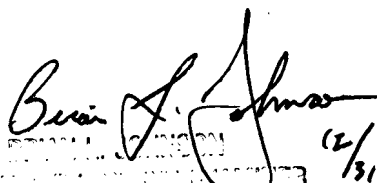
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Johnson, can be reached on (703) 308-0885. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-2571.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.



**TONY WINNER**  
**PATENT EXAMINER**

December 28, 2001

  
BRIAN JOHNSON  
SUPERVISOR  
12/31/01